



File Code: 1570-1 (215)
#05-01-00-0022
Date: June 16, 2005

Jeff Juel
The Ecology Center, Inc.
314 North First Street West
Missoula, MT 59802

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Juel:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed, on behalf of The Ecology Center, Inc.; Alliance for the Wild Rockies; and Friends of the Bitterroot, regarding the Sheep Creek Salvage Project Record of Decision (ROD) on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.17 to ensure the analysis and decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the Forest Supervisor's May 19, 2005, transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation (copy enclosed). The transmittal letter provides the specific page references to discussions in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the ROD and project file, which bear upon your objections. I specifically incorporate in this decision the appeal record, the references and citations contained in the transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and your requested relief be denied.

Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I find the objections were adequately considered in the EIS/ROD. I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. I find the Forest Supervisor has made a reasoned decision and has complied with all laws, regulations, and policy.



After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the Sheep Creek Salvage Project. Your requested relief is denied.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathleen A. McAllister
KATHLEEN A. MCALLISTER
Appeal Deciding Officer

Enclosures (1)

cc:
Appeal Reviewing Officer
Responsible Official
Forest Appeal Coordinator